

Despite the fact that tort reform would help reduce health care costs, the administration refuses to propose this commonsense solution. Why is that?

According to former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean, "Tort reform is not in the (health care) bill because the people who wrote it don't want to take on the trial lawyers."

In the handful of States that have enacted tort reform, health care costs have fallen, and the availability of medical care has expanded.

Tort reform and reducing the number of frivolous lawsuits against hospitals and doctors would help all Americans.

#### NO PUBLIC FUNDING FOR ABORTIONS

(Mr. INGLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, there are many things wrong with the Pelosi health care bill. Some of them rise to moral issues, and certainly the moral issue that I am focused on right now is the abortion issue.

There are a lot of people who want to say, Well, there won't be public funds used for abortion, but really, please, when we debate this bill, let's not insult the intelligence of other Members of Congress or of the American people. There is a clear commingling of resources. If you set up a public option and then there is money flowing into that from taxpayers, that money will ultimately find its way to abortion services.

So what we need in order to avoid that problem that many of us have of funding abortions with taxpayer money is an expressed prohibition on abortion services. There needs to be a bright line in this bill saying there will be no support for abortion services anywhere in the bill, similar to the Hyde amendment in HHS appropriations.

So, Madam Speaker, this is something that needs to be done in order to make it clear and to avoid this moral challenge.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I am compelled to address this body tonight after having listened to my col-

leagues over the last few days fabricate falsely about the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

Every 12 minutes, an American dies in the greatest country on Earth simply because he cannot afford to live. Americans lie right now, as I speak, in their homes while in pain, suffering because they cannot afford the care that would bring them relief.

I meet people in my district who choose between medication and food, parents who go without medical treatment to pay for heat and clothing for their children, and family members who believe with all their hearts that loved ones have died because they lacked adequate health care.

Like the misrepresentations about this bill, these injustices must stop. The time to act is now. In the words of President Obama, we must have the urgency of now.

H.R. 3962 helps uninsured Americans immediately. It immediately creates an insurance program with financial assistance for those who are uninsured or for those who have been denied policies because of preexisting conditions. It also allows those who are unemployed to keep their COBRA coverage until the exchange is operational.

Health insurance reform will mean greater stability and lower costs for all Americans. That means affordability for the middle class, security for our seniors, and responsibility to our children. It also will mean coverage for 96 percent of Americans. According to the CBO, the bill reduces the deficit by \$30 billion over the first 10 years.

In their speeches, Republicans have described this bill as the Speaker's bill. They call it the "Pelosi bill." This bill does not belong to the Speaker, although she has done a phenomenal job in helping us to craft it.

This bill belongs to the hardworking Americans who have insurance but who want a more transparent and stable health care marketplace that focuses on quality, affordable choices for all Americans, and that keeps insurers honest.

It belongs to 47 million Americans who are suffering and who have no help on the horizon.

This bill belongs to the seniors living in rural areas all over our country who will receive better Medicare coverage because of this bill.

It belongs to the children throughout our Nation who are so poor that their parents cannot even afford checkups. These are the children whose lives will be crippled by diabetes simply because doctors have not diagnosed them as being at risk.

Our children are our living messages we send to a future we will never see. The question is: What type of message are we sending? They will suffer simply because they do not know how to reverse the symptoms leading them down a troubled road.

This bill belongs to 44,000 Americans who die every year because they lack insurance. They have been guaranteed

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness by founding documents to which my colleagues on the other side of the aisle constantly refer. Americans are denied those things by the thousands. They cannot afford care and so they die.

That's right, Madam Speaker. For every page that Republicans have printed out and have used as props, for every page, 22 Americans will die this year because they cannot pay for the care that will save their lives.

It is telling that, using valuable tax dollars, they printed those pages to make copies of a bill that is available, searchable, and downloadable online. It is a perfect metaphor for the millions of dollars this bill will save Americans.

Our health care system will save more than \$150 billion every year, a call that President Obama made in the beginning of his campaign. The bill moves America to a health care system with an electronic recordkeeping system, cutting fraud, excessive administrative costs and medical mistakes.

Republicans do not care about those savings or about that progress. Like the pages of the taxpayer-provided paper used here today on this floor, they are props—only interested in being weights to drag down, to slow down, and to eventually stop true health care reform.

It pains me to say these words, but this is how I feel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN ON PRESERVING OUR FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, in the ongoing debate over health care reform, the topic of freedom is often overlooked, but it ought not be. The Democrats' health care bill is a massive expansion of government that will alter the lives and livelihoods of every person in America. For many, that means higher taxes; and for even more, it will mean an unprecedented intrusion of Federal Government bureaucrats into the way we receive health care. This is a fundamental erosion of our freedom.

The great freedom fighter, Abraham Lincoln, gave a speech in Springfield, Illinois, in 1838 where he touched on the idea of the loss of freedom. He was very explicit. He explained that our country could one day suffer a loss of freedom, not by an outside attack but from within. I will quote what Lincoln said and then give it in its larger context: